



Chesapeake Bay Region Background

The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States is approximately 200 miles long, ranging in width between approximately 3 miles at its narrowest to over 30 at its widest and was created approximately 10,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age. Furthermore, over 150 rivers and streams drain into the Chesapeake Bay. The name for the Chesapeake is thought to be derived from an old Algonquian word referring to “at a big river” or another interpretation, simply the “Great Water” but either way it is one of the oldest surviving English place names in the United States.

Having this immense estuary has been an incentive for people to inhabit the area and has provided fertile land for farms, an array of wildlife and sea life, and a mode of transportation and communication into the interior of North America. In addition, this region has seen the first permanent English settlement in North America at Jamestown in 1607. Furthermore, such great Americans as George Washington were born in the region and played one of the most crucial parts in creating a new country to control the Chesapeake Bay region.



Park Background

Is your mother or father keeping something valuable for you until you are older? Maybe it's your grandfather's pocket watch that he wanted you to have or your grandmother's charm bracelet. Your family's "safe keeps" this item until you can understand its importance for you and your family. These items tell a story about your family. You will want to keep these "special" family items to pass down to your children.

The National Park Service does the same role by protecting and keeping "special" items safe. The National Park Service (NPS) protects places that have a story to tell about the land, wildlife, or history. These sites are protected because they are "special places" for the people of the United States. The goal of the NPS has been to protect and preserve (safe keep) these places for the future.

Where George Washington, our first president, was born is a "special place" for the people of the United States. The birthplace is important because George Washington was the "Father of our Country." Visitors have traveled to the birthplace of George Washington for hundreds of years. Thanks to the NPS for preserving important places like George Washington's Birthplace, your children and your children's children will be able to visit these sites just as you can.



KWL Chart

*Teacher may choose to use a KWL chart to activate prior knowledge by asking students what they **K**now about the topic. Then, collaborating as a class, set goals specifying what they **W**ant to learn. After the Ranger visits, as part of the Post Visit Activity, students discuss what they have **L**earned to complete the chart.*

<u>K</u> <i>What I KNOW</i>	<u>W</u> <i>What I WANT to know</i>	<u>L</u> <i>What I LEARNED</i>

Chesapeake Bay Word Search

Directions: Below are words that you will learn about in this lesson. Circle the words as you find them.

F	P	Z	Z	R	T	E	A	F	D	I	E	C	E	N	U	H	C	W
P	Q	W	R	B	I	M	T	Q	F	I	E	G	H	U	I	Z	A	K
L	A	E	C	J	W	V	Z	S	I	Y	R	O	N	O	Z	D	R	L
A	Q	S	R	A	R	T	E	T	A	O	J	E	W	A	D	O	D	X
N	D	T	M	K	M	Z	R	R	E	E	E	W	C	R	H	G	I	P
T	O	M	T	I	L	O	O	G	N	Q	K	Q	H	T	C	C	N	Q
A	F	O	Y	R	A	S	T	T	K	N	A	S	Y	P	I	K	A	Y
T	G	R	I	C	I	Q	B	O	Q	Q	E	J	T	R	Z	O	L	L
I	P	E	V	C	N	P	I	M	P	W	P	S	N	E	W	L	N	B
O	T	L	Z	O	O	O	B	U	M	A	A	Z	U	S	L	N	H	S
N	V	A	U	B	L	B	J	L	A	S	S	R	O	I	N	O	U	L
U	I	N	E	R	O	X	O	C	Q	H	E	H	C	D	D	R	U	R
B	R	D	U	K	C	L	D	L	M	I	H	M	R	E	Y	T	X	K
B	G	H	A	B	I	T	A	T	S	N	C	H	U	N	R	H	Q	K
M	I	N	Q	I	Y	F	S	S	R	G	H	T	A	T	T	O	H	W
J	N	U	U	E	A	G	M	E	H	T	J	M	E	Y	N	T	K	A
T	I	E	L	A	B	X	W	W	N	O	C	Y	N	S	U	D	O	T
T	A	N	G	H	S	N	O	C	C	N	C	H	E	O	O	H	O	E
P	X	P	W	X	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	F	S	H	C	Q	D	R

Animals
Bay
Cardinal
Change
Chesapeake
Colonial
Country
County

Directions
East
George
Habitat
North
Plantation
Potomac
President

River
South
Virginia
Washington
Water
West
Westmoreland
Birthplace

Habitat Match

An animal's living place is called a **habitat**. Many animals make their habitats in the Chesapeake Bay Region. Help the animals find their habitats. Draw a line from the animal to its corresponding habitat.



Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!

When you reduce, reuse, and/or recycle you are doing a part in helping the Chesapeake Bay Region. We need the local region's resources to make these products, but if we continue to use and not replace or recycle, how will that affect the Chesapeake Bay Region? Below are a lot of items that people throw away every day. Look at the items below and think of a new way to use them. In the box draw a new way to reuse one or several of the items.



Past or Present?

The Chesapeake Bay Region has changed over time. When George Washington's family lived in this area hundreds of years ago, things would have looked different. Think about what they wore, what they played with, used to cook with, and even how they traveled. Are they the same practices today? Below look at the pictures and circle items that would have been in the Past, GW time. Put an X on items that would be in the present, today.



Draw your own picture.



